Upcoming NPDES permits for Lower Columbia River, Lower Snake River, and Grand Coulee Dams

Jenny Wu, EPA Region 10

Discussion with Tribes and Tribal Organizations

September 19, 2018

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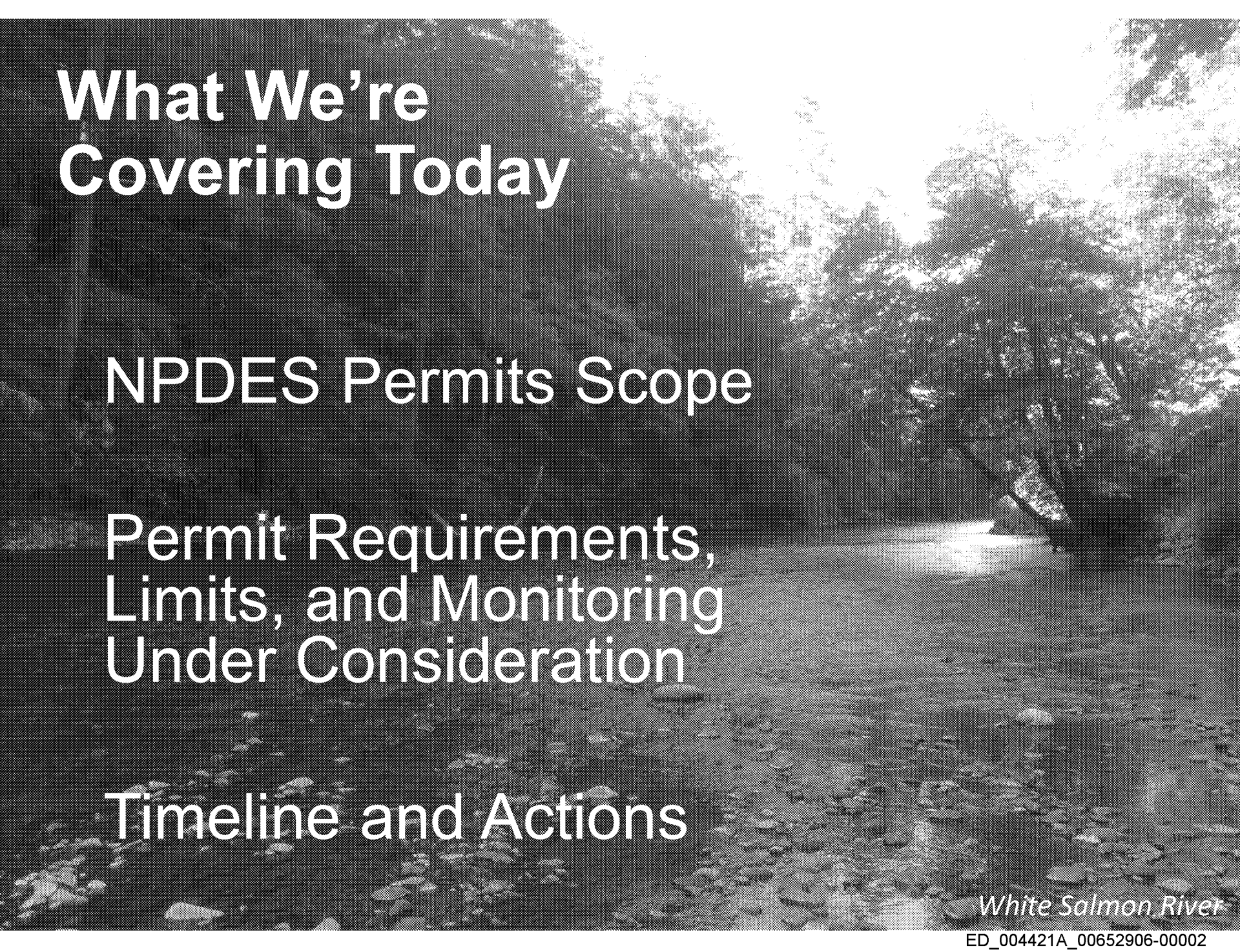
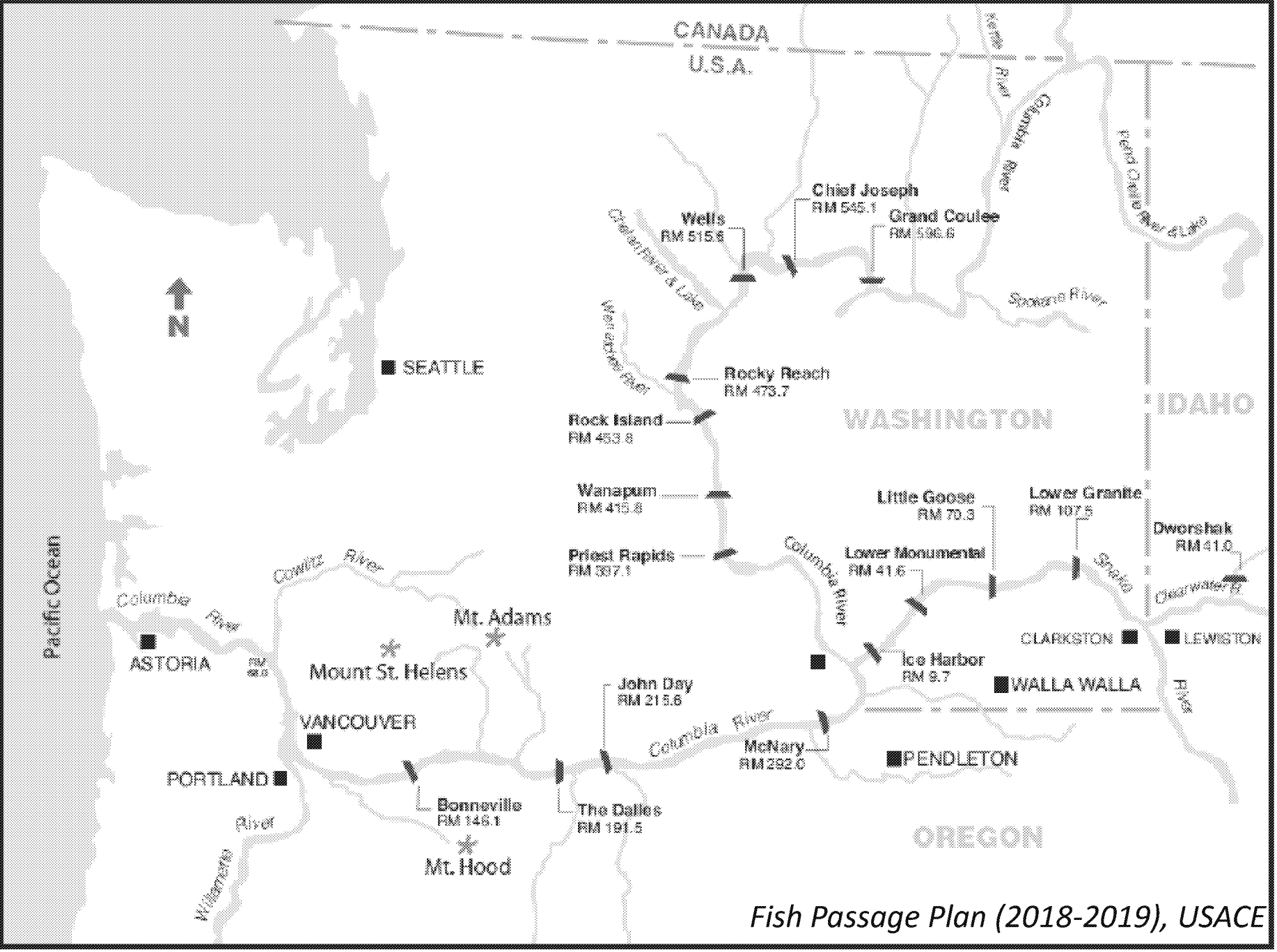
What We're Covering Today

- NPDES Permits Scope
- Permit Requirements, Limits, and Monitoring Under Consideration
- Timeline and Actions



White Salmon River



Fish Passage Plan (2018-2019), USACE

Permit Development History

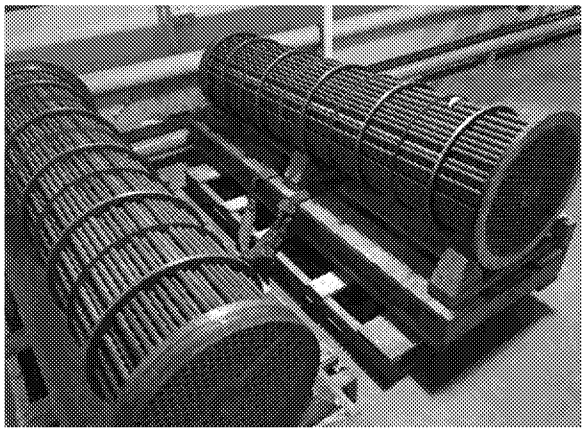
Applications submitted in 2009, 2015 and 2017

EPA's Draft General Permit for ID Hydroelectric Generating Facilities

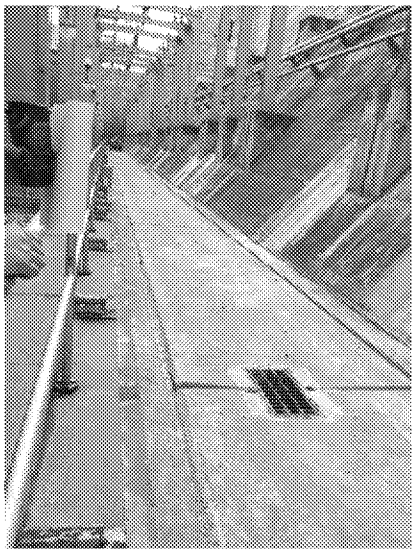
EPA Initiative to Issue New Permits

Little White Salmon River

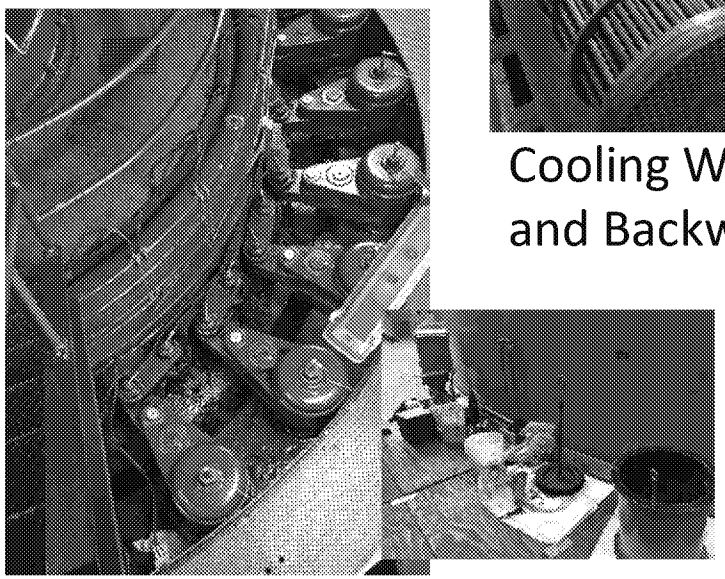
What is covered under the permit?



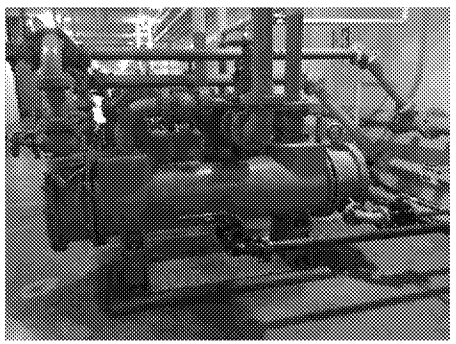
Cooling Water Discharges and Backwash Strainers



Drains, Sumps

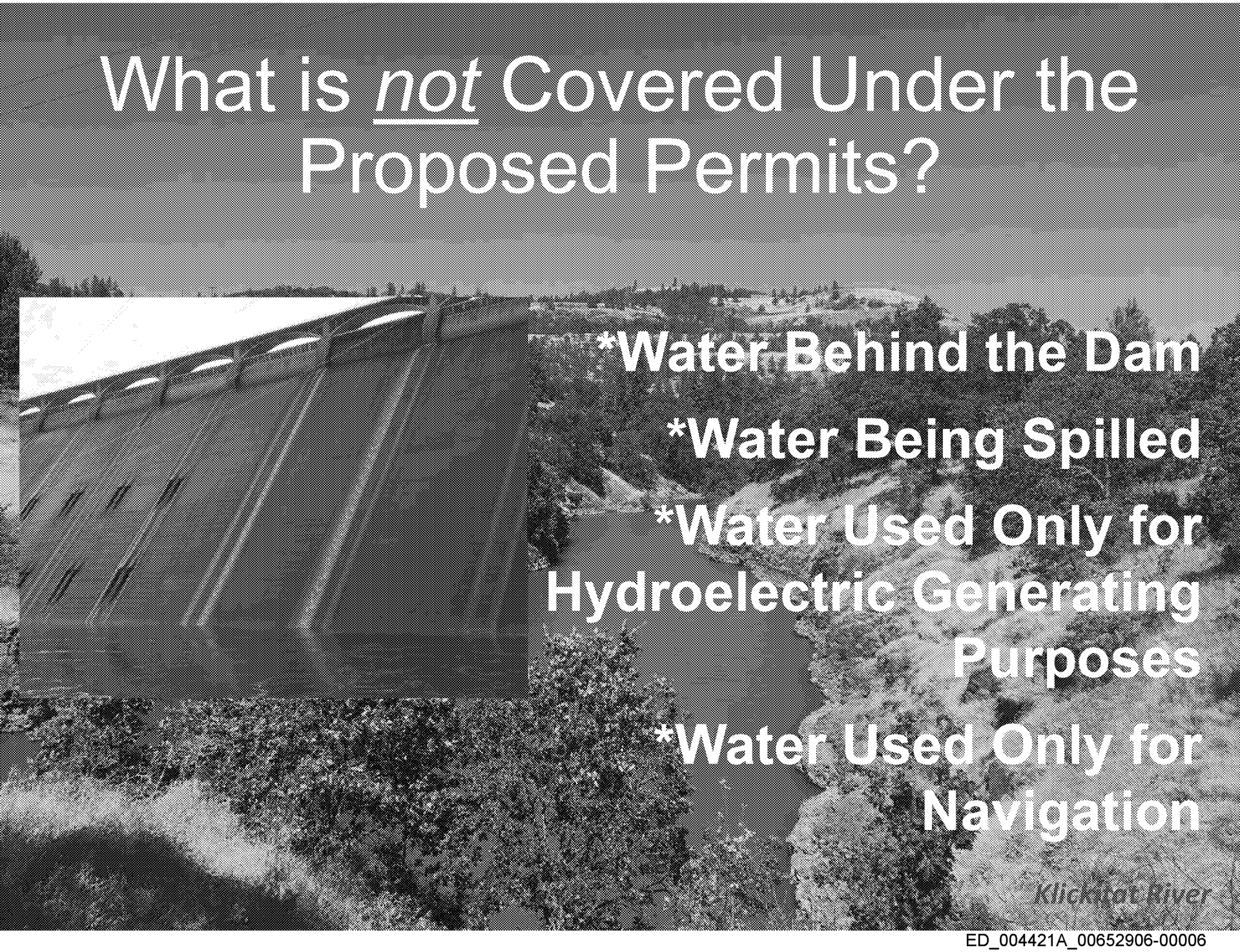


Wicket gates, in-line equipment, lubricated wires



Cooling Water Intake Structures

What is *not* Covered Under the Proposed Permits?



***Water Behind the Dam**

***Water Being Spilled**

***Water Used Only for Hydroelectric Generating Purposes**

***Water Used Only for Navigation**

Klickitat River

How are pollutants/operations addressed?

Drains and Sumps – *BMPs, oil and grease/pH numeric limits; continuous temp monitoring*

Cooling Water – *oil and grease/pH numeric limits; continuous temp monitoring*

Backwash Strainers - *BMPs*

Wicket Gates, In-line equipment, Lubricated Wire ropes – *BMPs, EALs, no toxics discharges*

Cooling Water Intake Structures – *Technologies that comply with BiOp and Fish Passage Plans*

Wind River

Other Permit Provisions

- No toxics discharges
- No visible oil sheen
- No floating or deleterious substances
- BMP Plan and Annual Updates
  - Prevention, minimization, tracking, reporting of oil and grease
- Environmentally Acceptable Lubricants (EALs) Annual Report
- 316(b) Annual Report

Wind River

Next Steps and Timeline

- In development and subject to change
- Request for 401 certification to Ecology
- 401(a)(2) letters to ODEQ and Tribes
- Public Comment Draft – early to mid-October

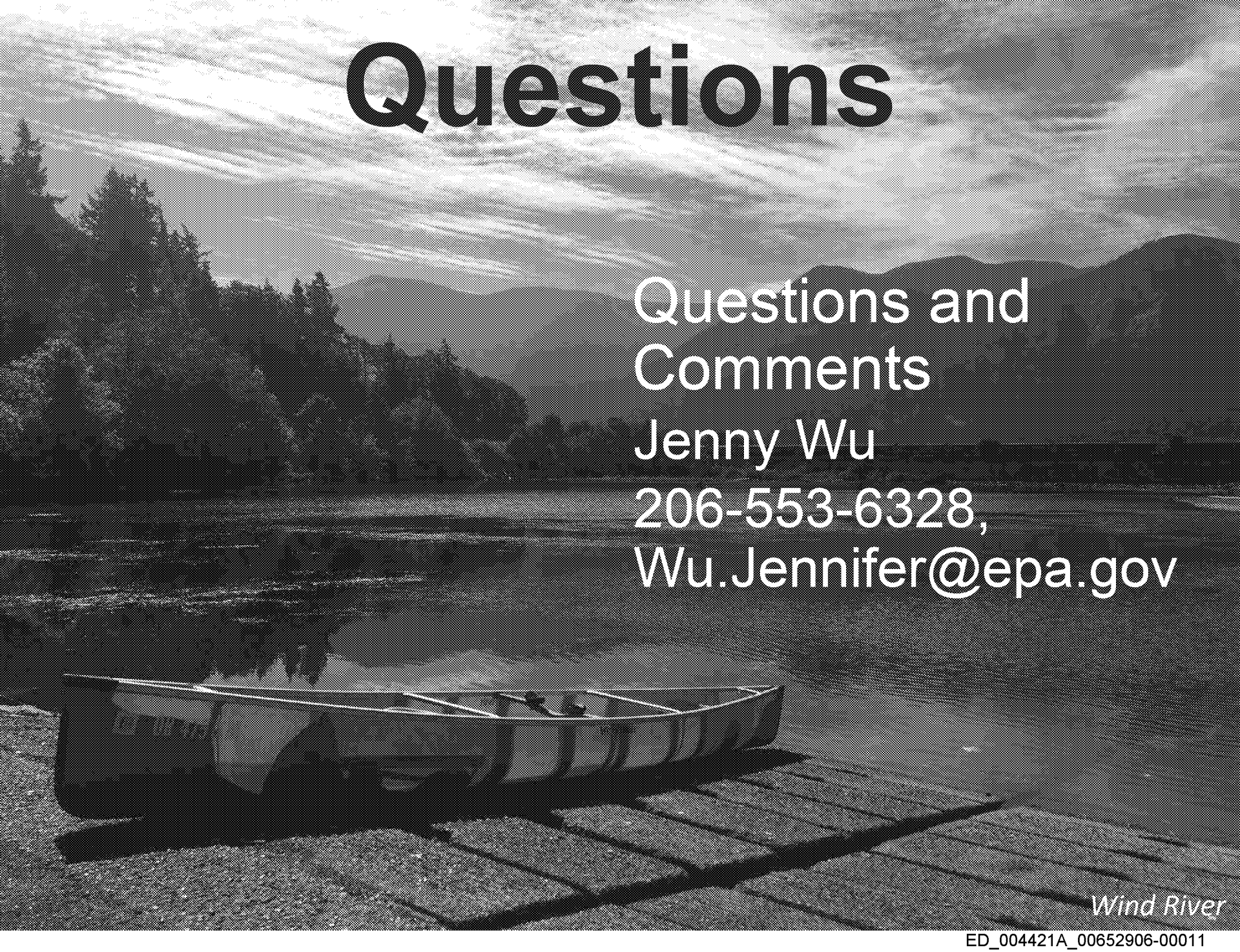
White Salmon River

Next Steps and Timelines (continued)

- Ongoing tribal coordination and consultation, if requested
- ESA consultation
- Issuance Date Goal: End of November or Beginning of December

White Salmon River

Questions

Questions and Comments

Jenny Wu
206-553-6328,
Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov